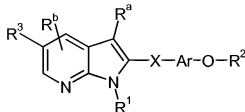


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



**I**

wherein

R¹ is optionally substituted C<sub>1-10</sub> hydrocarbyl; optionally substituted C<sub>1-10</sub>acyl; optionally substituted C<sub>4-8</sub>heteroaryl-C(=O)-; R⁴R⁵N-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴O-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴OC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴C(=O)NR⁴-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴CSO<sub>2</sub>N(R⁵)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)N(R⁶)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO<sub>2</sub>N(R⁶)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and C<sub>1-10</sub>hydrocarbylamino;

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, or a divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group that together with another divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group forms a portion of a ring;

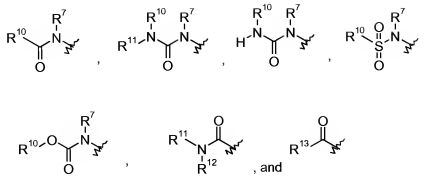
R¹ is a C<sub>4-12</sub> group;

X is selected from the group consisting of -NRᵇ-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -C(R⁸)(R⁹)-, and -S(O)<sub>q</sub>-, wherein q is 0, 1 or 2, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, -OH, or -H; at most one of R⁸ and R⁹ is -OH; X is a C<sub>4-10</sub>divalent group that separates groups connected thereto by one or two saturated carbons;

Ar is a C<sub>4-12</sub> divalent aromatic group;

R² is optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

R³ is selected from:



wherein

$R^7$  is selected from -H, optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl;

$R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl;  $R^9$  is a  $C_{4-12}$  group, wherein the atom of  $R^9$  that is directly connected to the six-membered ring of formula I is a nitrogen, or an unsaturated carbon, wherein the unsaturated carbon is connected to an oxygen through a double bond; and

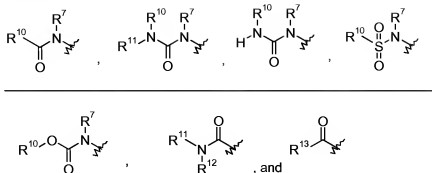
$R^a$  and  $R^b$  are -R,  $-NO_2$ , -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-C(=O)R$ ,  $-C(=O)OH$ ,  $-NH_2$ , -SH, -NHR,  $-NR_2$ , -SR,  $-SO_3H$ ,  $-SO_2R$ ,  $-S(=O)R$ , -CN, -OH,  $-C(=O)OR$ , or  $-NRC(=O)R$ , wherein R is independently -H or  $C_{1-6}$  hydrocarblyl.

2. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

$R^1$  is optionally substituted  $C_{4-10}$ hydrocarblyl; optionally substituted  $C_{4-10}$ acyl; optionally substituted  $C_{4-8}$ heteroaryl- $C(=O)-$ ;  $R^4R^6N-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^6NC(=O)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4O-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4OC(=O)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4C(=O)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4C(=O)NR^4-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^6NSO_2-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4CSO_2N(R^6)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^6NC(=O)N(R^6)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^6NSO_2N(R^6)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl- $C_{4-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl- $C(=O)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl- $C_{4-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{4-6}$ alkyl; and  $C_{1-10}$ hydrocarblylamino;

wherein  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from -H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, or a divalent  $C_{4-6}$  group that together with another divalent  $C_{4-6}$  group forms a portion of a ring;

—  $R^3$  is selected from:



wherein

—  $R^7$  is selected from —H, optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl;

—  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl; and

$R^a$  and  $R^b$  are hydrogen.

3. (currently amended) A compound as claimed claim 1,

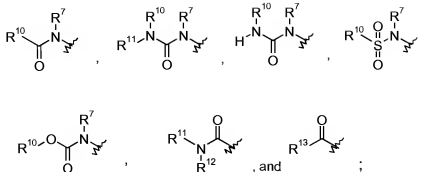
wherein  $R^1$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl;  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl; optionally substituted aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^5NC_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4OC_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heterocycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl- $C_{6-8}$ aryl;  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl- $C(=O)$ -;  $C_{6-8}$ aryl- $C(=O)$ -;  $C_{3-8}$ heteroaryl- $C(=O)$ -; or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

wherein  $R^2$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl substituted by at least one fluorine,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl substituted by at least one fluorine,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl substituted by at least one fluorine, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, and optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from the group consisting of —H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, and a divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group that together with another divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group forms a portion of a ring;

X is selected from the group consisting of  $NR^6$ ,  $CH_2CH_2$ ,  $CH=CH$ , O,  $C(R^8)(R^9)$ , and  $S(O)_q$ , wherein q is 0, 1 or 2, wherein  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are independently  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, —OH, or —H; at most one of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  is —OH;

$R^3$  is selected from:



wherein

$R^7$  is selected from -H, optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl;

$R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl; and

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are hydrogen.

4. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

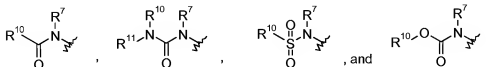
$R^1$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl;  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl; optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is  $-CH_2-$ ;

Ar is phenylene or pyridylene;

$R^2$  is selected from  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH(CH_3)_2$ ,  $-CH_2CF_3$ ,  $CF_3$ , cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

$R^3$  is selected from



wherein,  $R^7$  is selected from -H and methyl;  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$ aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl.

5. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

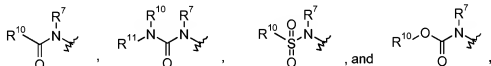
R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

Ar is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted *para*-arylene; an optionally substituted a six-membered *para*-heteroarylene;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from:



wherein, R<sup>7</sup> is selected from -H and methyl; R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl.

6. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

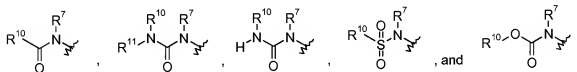
R<sup>1</sup> is selected from optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkylmethyl; and optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

Ar is *para*-phenylene or *para*-pyridylene;

R<sup>2</sup> is methyl, or ethyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from



wherein, R<sup>7</sup> is selected from -H and methyl; R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl, -COOR<sup>14</sup>, -OH, cyano, trifluormethyl, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl, -COOR<sup>14</sup>, -OH, cyano, trifluormethyl, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyloxy, wherein R<sup>14</sup> is a C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl.

7. (original) A compound selected from:

- 1) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 2) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 3) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;
- 4) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;
- 5) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 6) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-cyclopropanecarboxamide;
- 7) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;
- 8) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,*N'*-diethyl-*N*-methyl-urea;
- 9) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide;
- 10) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2-fluoro-*N*-methyl-benzamide;
- 11) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 12) [1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-1-methylethyl ester carbamic acid;
- 13) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;
- 14) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;
- 15) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;
- 16) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 17) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,6-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

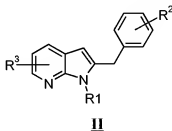
- 18) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-cyclobutanecarboxamide;
- 19) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,5-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzamide;
- 20) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 21) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;
- 22) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;
- 23) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;
- 24) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 25) [1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-, methyl ester carbamic acid;
- 26) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,6-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;
- 27) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-2-pyridinecarboxamide;
- 28) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;
- 29) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;
- 30) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,1-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-5-sulfonamide;
- 31) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-(dimethylamino)-*N*-methyl- benzamide;
- 32) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide;
- 33) 4-[[[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]methylamino]sulfonyl]-benzoic acid;
- 34) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-2-nitro-benzenesulfonamide; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8 –11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

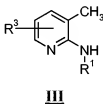
13. (cancelled)

14. (original) A method for preparing a compound of formula II,

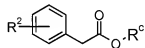


comprising the steps of

a) reacting a compound of formula III,



with a base having a pKa more than 20;



b) reacting a product formed in step a) with a compound of formula IV,

**IV**

to form the compound of formula II,

wherein

R¹ is optionally substituted C<sub>1-10</sub> hydrocarbonyl; optionally substituted C<sub>1-10</sub>acyl; optionally substituted C<sub>4-8</sub>heteroaryl-C(=O)-; R⁴R⁵N-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴O-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴OC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴C(=O)NR⁴-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴CSO<sub>2</sub>N(R⁵)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)N(R⁶)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO<sub>2</sub>N(R⁶)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted

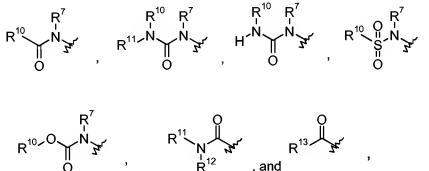


heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and C<sub>1-10</sub>hydrocarbylamino;

wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, or a divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group that together with another divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group forms a portion of a ring;

R<sup>2</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from:



wherein

R<sup>7</sup> is selected from -H, optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl; and

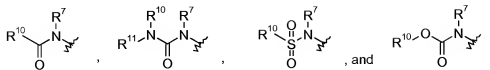
R<sup>c</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.

15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein  
 the base is t-butyl lithium;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heterocycloalkylmethyl;

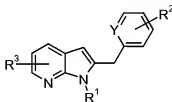
R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from:



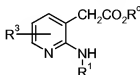
wherein,  $R^7$  is selected from -H and methyl;  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$  aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl.

16. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula V,



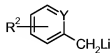
**V**

comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula VI,



**VI**

with a compound of formula VII,



**VII**

to form the compound of formula V,

wherein

$R^1$  is optionally substituted  $C_{1-10}$  hydrocarbyl; optionally substituted  $C_{1-10}$ acyl; optionally substituted  $C_{4-8}$ heteroaryl-C(=O)-;  $R^4R^5N-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^5NC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4OC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4C(=O)NR^4-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^5NSO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4CSO_2N(R^5)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^5NC(=O)N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^4R^5NSO_2N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted

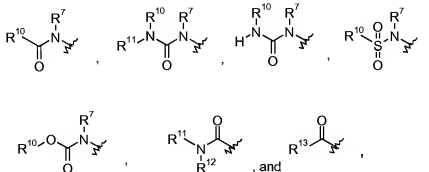
heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and C<sub>1</sub>.

<sub>10</sub>hydrocarbylamino;

wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, or a divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group that together with another divalent C<sub>1-6</sub>group forms a portion of a ring;

R<sup>2</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from:



wherein

R<sup>7</sup> is selected from -H, optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, optionally substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, or optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heteroaryl;

Y is CH or N; and

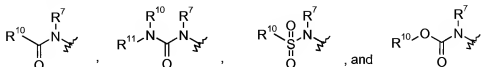
R<sup>c</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.

17. (original) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl; C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>heterocycloalkylmethyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from:



wherein,  $R^7$  is selected from -H and methyl;  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted  $C_{6-10}$  aryl, or optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$ heteroaryl.